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AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 BEIJING 16123

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TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, CH
SUBJECT: TFCH01: SITREP NO. 53: JUNE 15, 1600 LOCAL

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY:

DESCRIBED THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE IN BEIJING IN THE
FOLLOWING TERMS. THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN FOREIGNERS

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IN BEIJING AND THE CHINESE HERE: BOTH COMMUNITIES KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE JUNE 3/4, EVEN IF WE CANNOT TALK TO EACH OTHER OPENLY ABOUT IT. THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OF OUR CHINESE EMPLOYEES IN THE PRESS AND CULTURE (P&C) SECTION WAS DETAINED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICES BUREAU WITHDREW HIM FROM THE EMBASSY'S EMPLOY. THE NATIONAL TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF CHINA IS TRYING TO SELL THE LINE THAT FOREIGN TOURISTS' SAFETY IN CHINA "HAS NEVER BEEN AFFECTED AND CAN BE GUARANTEED." THE CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE SUSPENDED THE EXCHANGE OF ALL OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS WITH CHINA. THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO MEET WITH OUR NEW NAVAL ATTACHE AND THEREFORE HE HAS NOT BEEN ACCREDITED. ASIDE FROM COVERAGE OF THE TWO AMERICANS' EXPULSION, ANTI-FANG LIZHI, ANTI-VOA AND ANTI-US ARTICLES AND LETTERS WERE DROPPED FROM THE CHINESE MEDIA. INSTEAD, STORIES DEPICTED THE FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN COMING BACK TO BEIJING AND RETURNING TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ROUTINES IN A CITY WHICH IS PURPORTEDLY NORMAL. ON JUNE 15, THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION INTERVIEWED APPROXIMATELY 150 VISA APPLICANTS, TURNING AWAY 200-250 OUTSIDE THE GATES. THE CHINESE CONTROL ACCESS TO OUR CONSULAR SECTION

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AND CAN DECIDE AT ANY POINT PRIOR TO OR SUBSEQUENT TO OUR VISA ISSUANCE TO PREVENT A CHINESE CITIZEN FROM DEPARTING CHINA. INTERVIEWING OFFICERS NOTE JUNE 15 THAT THERE IS NO SENSE OF ANXIETY AMONG THE VISA APPLICANTS. IN CHENGDU, OF 39 PROSPECTIVE VISA APPLICANTS, NINE WERE INTERVIEWED AND TWO ISSUED ON JUNE 15. END SUMMARY.

/

3. IT'S NOT EXACTLY LIKE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

[REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE IN BEIJING IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS. HE SAID THAT DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND ITS AFTERMATH PEOPLE WERE SIMPLY AFRAID TO TALK TO FOREIGNERS OR EVEN TO EACH OTHER ABOUT ANY EVEN REMOTELY POLITICAL MATTERS. [REDACTED] TOLD US THAT NOW, ALTHOUGH CHINESE PEOPLE ARE UNWILLING TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES BY TALKING TO FOREIGNERS, THEY KNOW THAT THE FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN BEIJING HAVE SEEN EVERYTHING THAT THEY HAVE. THIS IS A SUBTLE POINT, BUT MAKES FOR A REMARKABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOW AND 25 YEARS AGO. THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN FOREIGNERS IN BEIJING AND THE CHINESE

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HERE: BOTH COMMUNITIES KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE
JUNE 3/4, EVEN IF WE CANNOT TALK TO EACH OTHER OPENLY
ABOUT IT.

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4. AUTHORITIES MOVE AGAINST PRESS AND CULTURE
SECTION EMPLOYEE

THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OF OUR CHINESE EMPLOYEES IN THE

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TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, CH
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PRESS AND CULTURE (P&C) SECTION WAS DETAINED BY THE
AUTHORITIES FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE THE DIPLOMATIC
SERVICES BUREAU WITHDREW HIM FROM THE EMBASSY'S
EMPLOY. [REDACTED]

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5. GOVERNMENT MANIPULATING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR
MARTIAL LAW TROOPS

THE "PEOPLE'S DAILY" ON JULY 15 CARRIED A FRONT PAGE
STORY REPORTING A STATE COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT,
WHILE THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S EFFORTS WERE APPRECIATED,
THEY SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
FOOD AND MONEY TO THE MARTIAL LAW TROOPS IN BEIJING.
A CHINESE CONTACT CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD
ORDERED UP THE CONTRIBUTIONS AS EVIDENCE OF POPULAR
SUPPORT FOR THE TROOPS IN BEIJING. THE CONTACT'S
RELATIVE HAS A DAUGHTER WHOSE ENTIRE SCHOOL HAD BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO WRITE LETTERS PRAISING THE TROOPS AND
TELL THEIR PARENTS TO PURCHASE GIFTS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

6. THE NATIONAL TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF CHINA SPEWS
PROPAGANDA

THE OFFICIAL XINHUA NEWS AGENCY REPORTED JUNE 15 THAT
"THE SAFETY OF OVERSEAS TOURISTS IN CHINA HAS NEVER
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BEEN AFFECTED AND CAN BE GUARANTEED." FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE HAD TO DUCK GUNFIRE, INCLUDING EMBASSY OFFICERS AND FAMILIES WHO WERE SHOT AT IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND IN THE PAST WEEK, WOULD DISAGREE.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE CONTACTED BUSINESSMEN IN BEIJING INVITING THEM TO REQUEST APPOINTMENTS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO EDUCATE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO RETURN TO THE CITY TO HELP THEM AVOID BEING USED BY THE CHINESE PROPAGANDA MACHINE.

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7. CANADIANS AND AUSSIES SUSPEND EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS

THE CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE SUSPENDED THE EXCHANGE OF ALL OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS WITH CHINA.

8. U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE YET TO BE ACCREDITED

THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO MEET WITH OUR NEW NAVAL ATTACHE AND THEREFORE HE HAS NOT BEEN ACCREDITED. OTHER COUNTRIES' MILITARY ATTACHES, INCLUDING SOUTHERN AMERICAN AND EASTERN BLOC OFFICERS, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENTS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS.

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9. FOR THE RECORD: PESSIN AND POMFRET

THE COUNSELOR OF OUR PRESS AND CULTURE SECTION IS DELIVERING THE EMBASSY'S PROTEST OF VOA BUREAU CHIEF

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PESSIN AND AP REPORTER POMFRET TODAY. IN ADDITION,
HE WILL MEET WITH THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE MFA
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT TOMORROW, JUNE 16. FOR THE
RECORD, CHINESE MEDIA REPORTS STATE THAT POMFRET, WHO
WAS CALLED IN BY THE BEIJING MUNICIPAL PUBLIC
SECURITY BUREAU (AN ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL LEVEL
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY), HAD "ENGAGED IN
ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS STATUS AS A
JOURNALIST . . . MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH RINGLEADERS
OF ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS, GIVING THEM INFORMATION AND

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PROVIDING THEM SHELTER . . . USED ILLEGAL MEANS TO OBTAIN STATE SECRETS." AT 1700 ON JUNE 14 THE BEIJING MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU NOTIFIED POMFRET THAT HE HAD 72 HOURS TO DEPART CHINA.

VOA'S PESSIN WAS CALLED IN FOR A DIFFERENT REASON BY A DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION: THE BEIJING MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE BEIJING MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT CHARGED PESSIN WITH VIOLATING ORDER NO. 3 ISSUED BY THE CITY GOVERNMENT. THEY SAID THAT HE HAD "ILLEGALLY CONDUCTED REPORTING ACTIVITIES, AND MADE UNTRUE REPORTS WHICH INCITED AND STIRRED UP ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY INSURRECTION."

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10. JUNE 15 MEDIA: NO ANTI-VOA/ANTI-US SLANT

ASIDE FROM COVERAGE OF THE TWO AMERICANS' EXPULSION, ANTI-FANG LIZHI, ANTI-VOA AND ANTI-US ARTICLES AND
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LETTERS WERE DROPPED FROM THE CHINESE MEDIA. INSTEAD, STORIES DEPICTED THE FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN COMING BACK TO BEIJING AND RETURNING TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ROUTINES IN A CITY WHICH IS PURPORTEDLY NORMAL. ON THE INTERNAL SCENE, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "CHINA DAILY" AND THE AUTHORITATIVE "PEOPLE'S DAILY" REPORTED JUNE 15 THAT WAN LI, CITED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, VISITED THE MARTIAL LAW TROOPS ON TIANANMEN SQUARE JUNE 3 AND VISITED THEM AT MARTIAL LAW TROOP HEADQUARTERS JUNE 4 AND JUNE 7. OTHER DOMESTIC NEWS FOCUSED ON DENG XIAOPING'S SPEECH CONVEYING GREETINGS TO MARTIAL LAW TROOPS (REPORTED PREVIOUS SITREP). THE CHINESE LANGUAGE "BEIJING DAILY" GLOATED THAT "OVER 100 FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES OF JOINT VENTURES AND OTHER FOREIGN-FUNDED FIRMS REMAIN WORKING IN BEIJING." SIMILARLY, "PEOPLE'S DAILY" CARRIED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "SOME BIG AMERICAN COMPANIES THINK THAT THE CHINESE MARKET STILL HAS ITS ATTRACTIONS" WHICH CITES A "FORTUNE" MAGAZINE SURVEY OF U.S. COMPANIES CONDUCTED MAY 30 TO JUNE 7. A JUNE 15 "PEOPLE'S DAILY" COMMENTARY ENTITLED "UNITE AS ONE AGAINST THE ENEMY" STATED THAT THE CHINESE MUST "ADOPT STERN MEASURES TOWARDS THE INSTIGATORS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY REBELLION" BUT STRESSED THAT "ORDINARY" PEOPLE WHO JOINED THE DEMONSTRATIONS OUT OF IGNORANCE COULD BE DEALT WITH THROUGH "EDUCATION."

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11. HARASSMENT ON THE VISA LINE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE WHICH
HAS BEEN IN EFFECT AS LONG AS WE HAVE BEEN ISSUING

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VISAS IN CHINA, CHINESE VISA APPLICANTS MUST ENDURE A LONG BUREAUCRATIC STRUGGLE BEFORE THEY REACH OUR CONSULAR SECTION. THE STUDENT APPLICANTS WE ARE SEEING NOW HAVE COMPLETED SEVERAL MONTHS WORK: ARRANGING FOR TOEFL EXAMS, OBTAINING PASSPORTS, AND THEN OBTAINING EXIT PERMITS IN THEIR PASSPORTS. THEREFORE THE STUDENTS WE ARE SEEING NOW MUST HAVE STARTED THE PROCESS OF ARRANGING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO; THEY DID NOT DECIDE ON JUNE 5 TO INITIATE ACTION TO OBTAIN A U.S. VISA. INTERVIEWING OFFICERS NOTE THAT THERE IS NO SENSE OF URGENCY OR RUSH AMONG THE VISA APPLICANTS, ALTHOUGH SOME WHO HAD BEEN REFUSED PREVIOUSLY APPEAR TO BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WHAT THEY SEE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVERSE EARLIER REFUSALS BY CITING PARTICIPATION IN THE PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT.

A FURTHER NOTE ON PROCEDURES: IF THE CHINESE APPLICANTS' TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ARE NOT IN ORDER FROM THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES' PERSPECTIVE, THE PROSPECTIVE TRAVELERS ARE DENIED ENTRY TO OUR COMPOUND BY THE PEOPLE'S ARMED POLICE (PAP) GUARD WHO MANS THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH CHINESE MUST PASS TO GET TO OUR CONSULAR SECTION. THE PAP GUARDS ARE NOT SHY; ON JUNE 14 OUR ASSISTANT REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER WITNESSED A PAP GUARD'S CONFRONTATIONAL ENCOUNTER WITH A VISA APPLICANT. OUTSIDE OUR COMPOUND, THE PAP GUARD REFUSED TO ALLOW A CHINESE TO ENTER, ARGUED WITH THE PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT, THEN GRABBED THE CHINESE PERSON'S PAPERS, INCLUDING A VISA

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APPLICATION, AND TORE THEM TO PIECES. IN SUM, THE CHINESE CONTROL ACCESS TO OUR CONSULAR SECTION AND CAN DECIDE AT ANY POINT PRIOR TO OR SUBSEQUENT TO OUR VISA ISSUANCE TO PREVENT A CHINESE CITIZEN FROM

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DEPARTING CHINA.

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12. BEIJING AND CHENGDU CONSULAR SITUATION

ON JUNE 15, EMBASSY BEIJING CONSULAR SECTION INTERVIEWED 163 VISA APPLICANTS, TURNING AWAY 200-250 OUTSIDE THE GATES. OF THE 163 APPLICATIONS, APPROXIMATELY 60 VISAS WERE ISSUED, PRIMARILY TO STUDENTS AND EXCHANGE SCHOLARS. THE 103 REJECTIONS WERE MAINLY ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS. THE APPLICANTS WERE NOT PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS AND THE VAST MAJORITY WERE STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN WORKING ON GOING TO THE STATES TO STUDY FOR SOME MONTHS. A FEW APPLICANTS HAD BEEN DENIED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE AND THOUGHT THAT BY CLAIMING SOME CONNECTION WITH THE STUDENT MOVEMENT THEY MIGHT RECEIVE A VISA. THEY WERE TOLD THAT BASIC VISA REQUIREMENTS HAD NOT CHANGED AND WENT AWAY DISAPPOINTED.

ON JUNE 14, APPROXIMATELY 39 POTENTIAL VISA APPLICANTS APPEARED AT CONGEN CHENGDU; NINE WERE INTERVIEWED AND TWO VISAS WERE ISSUED. ON JUNE 15 APPROXIMATELY 34 PEOPLE APPEARED; AGAIN NINE WERE INTERVIEWED AND TWO VISAS WERE ISSUED. THE CROWD BROKE UP WHEN THE CONSULAR OFFICE CLOSED FOR LUNCH AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE OFFICE WOULD REOPEN IN THE AFTERNOON, NO APPLICANTS RETURNED AFTER LUNCH. AS IN BEIJING, THE MAJORITY OF VISA RECIPIENTS WERE STUDENTS; SEVERAL OF THE

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UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS HAD APPLIED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE AND WERE HOPING FOR A CHANGE IN VISA POLICY. THE CONSULATE INFORMED THE APPLICANTS THAT THE VISA GUIDELINES HAD NOT CHANGED THAT GOOD APPLICANTS WOULD BE APPROVED AND BAD ONES REJECTED. UNDER USUAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CONSULATE HAS A 70 PERCENT REFUSAL RATE OF WALK-INS AND 48-50 PERCENT REFUSAL OF CONVENTIONAL APPLICANTS. THE CONSULATE EXPECTED TO HAVE NO WAITING LINE BY NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY BARRING ANY CHANGE IN THE SITUATION. CHENGDU NOTED THAT, WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY THE GATE GUARD ONLY NOTED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE CONSULATE FOR VISAS, NOW THE GUARD APPEARED TO BE NOTING THE APPLICANTS' NAMES AS WELL.

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13. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE PEOPLE'S ARMED
POLICE DEPLOYMENT AROUND THE EMBASSY'S THREE
COMPOUNDS; THE SITUATION IS THE SAME AS REPORTED
JUNE 14.

14. MINIMIZES CONSIDERED. LILLEY

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